

ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER

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Letter No. 381

The "Anti-Defamation" League!

A book entitled *Cross-Currents* by Arnold Forster and Benjamin R. Epstein of the Anti-Defamation League has just been published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., one of the country's leading publishers.

It is one more in a series of books put out from time to time by the Anti-Defamation League, harping on the old saw of "anti-Semitism." Each book is bolder and more reckless than the previous. This latest book in particular is a stench in the nostrils of all decent Americans.

GENERAL Telford Taylor, who was the chief prosecutor at the infamous Nuremberg Trials, in a review of *Cross-Currents* in *The New York Times Book Review* of Sunday, March 25, 1956, shows his skepticism as to the way the book is put together, for he says in part:

"Obviously, persons representing or reporting to the Anti-Defamation League have extensively interviewed such interesting German specimens as Werner Naumann, etc. . . . as well as their principal correspondents in America. . . . But who were these interviewers and how did they go about their assignment? In what sort of atmosphere did these conversations take place? On such questions — of real importance in gauging the significance of the statements — we are left in the dark."

I can throw some light on the question General Taylor raises. On pages 348 and 349 of *Cross-Currents* occur the following statements, under date of January 23, 1955:

"Rahim [former Egyptian Ambassador], the new Arab Center appointee, conferred at length with Merwin K. Hart on the feasibility of creating an American foundation which could collect contributions, deductible from taxes, to aid Arab refugees, and at the same time serve the Arab propaganda effort. Apparently Hart considered the idea good,

for he volunteered that he had influential and powerful friends in Washington who could help establish such a foundation. Of course these people would require money for legal expenses; but Hart promised, for his part, to submit a report on the problems involved in establishing a foundation.

"Rahim's talk with Hart was not confined to the subject of a foundation; they also discussed how the Arab League Center's activities in this country could be operated more efficiently.

"Hart made many suggestions, including the following:

"1. That the League's Center prepare a regular newsletter, distributing thousands of copies all over the country (Hart said he might consider making his own mailing list available).

"2. That the Center retain a top-flight lobbyist to work with Congress, a very important field of action (Hart said, Rahim willing, he could suggest some names).

"3. That the Center concentrate on educational and church groups throughout the country, the heart of the nation (once you hit these groups, said Hart, you can swing a lot of influence).

"Rahim was particularly impressed with Hart. But Hart's ideas were suggestions Rahim had already turned over and over in his own mind."

Doubleday, in display advertising in *The New York Times*, March 22, 1956, assured hoped-for readers that "Here is the *carefully documented*, shocking exposé of hatemongers! . . . examined and dissected with *facts* drawn from the files of the Anti-Defamation League . . . professional in method. . ." (italics ours).

How "professional" — how "carefully documented" will the ADL's "facts" stand up under scrutiny?

The fact is I have never even had the pleasure

of meeting Ambassador Rahim. No conversation of any kind ever took place between us.

Obviously the inclusion of this lie out of the whole cloth (one of many), throws discredit on the entire book. One wonders how a publisher as reputable as Doubleday, could have made himself responsible for this book, without having satisfied himself of the truthfulness of the authors and the reliability of their facts.

A blurb on the book's jacket, written supposedly by the publisher, describes the book as—

"An important, carefully documented and shocking exposé of international political anti-Semitism during the last half decade."

At best, this statement was made with a reckless disregard of whether it was true or false.

IT is time to be frank. The Irish, the Scotch, the Germans, the Italians and the other groups that constitute such a large part of our population, do not find it necessary to raise the cry of "anti-Irish," "anti-Scotch," "anti-German," "anti-Italian," etc.

But certain Jews in the United States have made a business out of denouncing other Americans as "anti-Semitic."

WHAT is anti-Semitism anyway?

To the Jews who make up the active personnel of the ADL, anti-Semitism appears to be any criticism, however slight, of anything that any Jewish group or individual may do or say.

A large number of the several million Jews who are lawfully in the United States, are among our most useful citizens. They have made mighty contributions in practically all walks of life. They are entitled to receive, and they do receive, the same benefits of citizenship as other Americans. In all probability they have greater advantages and benefits in the United States than they have ever had in any other country. No other country has treated Jews better than the United States.

But scattered among the Jews that are first of all Americans are the kind of propagandists that make up the ADL. They cannot tolerate criticism—indeed of late they do not tolerate even the slightest mention of some of the things they are doing or trying to do.

The term anti-Semite is merely an epithet—a smear word. When the Economic Council, in 1936, first declared its belief that communism was a growing danger in the United States, we were instantly called by two names—"fascist" and "anti-Semite." As we have said before, the use of these two epithets, as far as we can learn, was decided upon at the Communist Internationale meeting in Moscow in the summer of 1935; and they have been used ever since.

The Jews, as we all know, are only a small part of the Semites. One other group of Semites, namely the forty million Arabs, are nearly three times as numerous as the much smaller group of Semites that are called Jews and who are the descendants of Isaac. Ever since the General Assembly of the UN voted the partition of Palestine (see Council Letter 181 of December 15, 1947), we in the National Economic Council, interested in our foreign as well as our domestic policy, have spoken out again and again against the brazen efforts of Israel to take land away from the Arabs. The dire threat of war in the Middle East—a war which may break out any day—is the direct result of pressure from groups like the Anti-Defamation League on the Washington Administration and on the Congress and on the press.

Because in 1947 the Economic Council opposed a course that was certain to cost America the goodwill of four-hundred million Moslems, and could lead to war, we were called "anti-Semitic" again.

BUT what is the Anti-Defamation League?

It would seem, from the ordinary implication of the name, that it is an organization opposed to the defamation of one group by another—of one individual by another. Such an objective would be laudable.

But many of the publications put out by the ADL make it perfectly clear that the purpose is not to *prevent* defamation, but to destroy by *defamation* any person or group with which the ADL disagrees.

The book *Cross-Currents*, like previous books of the ADL, is filled with the word *hate*. It talks *ad nauseam* about "hate-mongers," and "bigots." But the publications of the ADL rank the ADL as the greatest hate organization in the United States. Many of the patriotic and con-

servative organizations and individuals attacked by the ADL are dedicated to preserving the integrity and independence of the United States. The ADL is exhibiting toward them the greatest of hate and does not hesitate, as in *Cross-Currents*, to indulge in smearing them with absolute and libelous falsehood.

To be sure, in the "authors' note," and in the foreword of *Cross-Currents*, Forster and Epstein seem to have attempted to build a screen, back of which they and their publisher can try to hide, if their statements are attacked.

Thus in the "authors' note" it is stated that:

"... the book's memoranda are not exact copies ... information extraneous to the essential story was deleted; descriptive background was added where necessary to make the story intelligible; language was edited for purposes of clarity and smoothness. ... *But no facts have been changed in any way.*" (Italics are the authors'.)

There is reason to believe that the ADL and its kind were back of the demand for the so-called Buchanan Lobbying investigation by the Congress which was pulled off in 1949 and 1950, largely for the purpose of getting a list of the principal supporters of these American right-wing organizations. Having obtained these lists, they then proceeded (at least as far as the National Economic Council is concerned) to canvass these supporters and cajole or threaten them, with a view to having them cease their support. Many of these supporters told the ADL to go to Hell. Thereupon the ADL, of course, dropped the matter. Tyrants and blackmailers are generally cowards. A few of the threatened supporters knuckled down to the intimidation.

There is no question of the secret intimidation exercised upon Members of Congress and the Administration by the kind of Jews who produced this scurrilous book. In fact, they are a most important factor in the formulation of American foreign policy. There would never have been such a tragic development as the partition of Palestine, which will very likely involve the United States in

war — this perilous situation would never have happened had it not been for the aggressive, lying, deceitful activities of the kind represented by the authors of this book *Cross-Currents* and their associates.

Most American Jews are upstanding, useful and loyal American citizens.

But the little clique, for which the Anti-Defamation League is a mouth-piece, are constantly scheming for tyrannical control. They are back of the demand, now endorsed in part by President Eisenhower, to destroy our immigration laws. They are the chief force back of the UN and the World Government movement. They work nearly always secretly and furtively. They hurt all Jews and are a menace to America.

ON October 4, 1955, Mr. Henry Edward Schultz, National Chairman of the ADL, wrote a long letter to Lieutenant General George E. Stratemeyer, one of America's most distinguished generals, now living in retirement at Winter Park, Florida.

The letter complained that he, General Stratemeyer, was supporting *The Iron Curtain Over America*, a book published by Colonel John Beaty of the Southern Methodist University at Dallas. The Schultz letter contained these paragraphs:

"It is never a pleasant duty to impose distressing problems upon public personalities such as yourself, and for some time it had been our hope that this letter to you might become unnecessary.

"Just a year ago, the publishers of 'Iron Curtain Over America,' began distributing, as part of a sales campaign, copies of what purported to be a letter from you to John O. Beaty, the author, endorsing this volume and recommending it to Americans in general.

"At that time we withheld writing you because we felt that inevitably the facts about Mr. Beaty and his book would be brought to your attention and that you would then take appropriate action...."

"In view of the foregoing, it is our feeling that you may want to consider the advisability of some public action which can assure the American people, who hold you in such high regard, that you repudiate religious hatred, as we know you do, and the use of your name by Professor Beaty. . . .

"We would appreciate your response which we hope will relieve the concern that has been expressed to us. . . ."

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General Stratemeyer replied on October 12, and pertinent parts of his letter follow:

"First, I want to make it clear that I am not, nor have I ever been, anti-Jewish. I have many Jewish friends throughout this country, who are loyal honest Americans.

"As for your use of the meaningless expression 'anti-Semitic' it makes no sense. According to the dictionary, the word Semitic pertains to the descendants of Shem which includes Assyrians, Hebrews, Phoenicians, Arabs, Abyssinians, etc. It also pertains to the Semitic languages collectively. Therefore, how any one person or group of persons could be anti-Semitic is beyond my understanding.

"Who are you and your organization to tell me what I should read and what I should recommend other loyal American citizens to read? And, by the way, just what is the purpose of your organization?

"Not until I read John Beaty's book 'The Iron Curtain Over America' did I learn what was going on back in the United States of America while I was overseas fighting for my country. . . .

"When the United States of America reaches the point where a citizen cannot read what he desires to read and to recommend such reading to others, then we will have reached the status that exists in Soviet Russia. But THANK GOD, we are still free men in America. As I interpret your letter your organization would have the people read only what you think should be read and recommended to others. This I resent as a free American citizen.

"I do not understand what you mean by your statement 'We do not propose to burden you at this point, etc.' Is this a veiled threat to my free expression and thoughts? If so, this I also resent.

"Your letter is the most outrageous communication I have ever received in my life and I intend to

give it the widest possible publicity, including my many Jewish friends."

LASTLY, as our friends and subscribers know, the National Economic Council has always been refused income tax deductibility for its contributors. Yet all our activities are out in the open. We have no weapon to use, but the openly spoken and written word.

Yet the ADL is one of the groups enjoying full deductibility! This means that the American taxpayers are footing much of the cost of the ADL's scurrilous campaigns!

WE Americans—all of us—have the greatest possible task before us in the effort to preserve the Republic.

We suggest to these ADLers, who have so far over-reached themselves, that they call in their lying literature, cease their prattling about hate-mongers and the rest, and end their spying un-American activities. In other words, end their own defamation of all who do not agree with them.

All loyal Americans of whatever background would rejoice at such a change of front, for it would remove the most disturbing element in our midst.

Then America could go forward—united.

Melvin L. Hail

President,

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, Inc.

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